

# The Peer Support Program: An Innovative Service for Veterans

- We are pleased to announce that Mr. Guy Holmes has been hired to work as a Peer Support Technician (PST) at our Sonora outpatient clinic. Guy is hired to work 20 hours per week and will work on TUES, WEDS, and THURS.
- In essence, PSTs are paraprofessionals who have a lived experience with mental health disorders and who are now successfully engaged in recovery from those disorders.
- Since 2005, VA has specifically funded this new federal category of mental health provider: the Peer Support Technician (PST). The position requires specific training, certification, demonstration of certain competencies, and ongoing supervision by a licensed mental health professional.
- PSTs are successfully integrated into VA mental health teams all over the country.  
**The Peer Support Program is intended to supplement services offered by mental health professionals.**
- Guy has been hired to provide services to Veterans who struggle with Substance Abuse and PTSD related issues. He will also provide additional services specifically to meet the needs of OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.
- He will be running groups in addition to providing outreach services to Veterans who screen positive for Substance Abuse or PTSD.
- **We hope to expand this service to the Stockton and Modesto sites also.**
- As a Veteran who has availed himself of mental health services, Guy will share his own experiences with a specific focus on what skills, strengths, supports and resources he has used in his own recovery.

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If you wish to refer a Veteran to this program please contact:

- Pat Noonan at [patricia.noonan@va.gov](mailto:patricia.noonan@va.gov) or
- Bill Boddie at [william.boddie@va.gov](mailto:wiliam.boddie@va.gov)

General questions about the program should be directed to:

- Shaili Jain, MD, at [shaili.jain@va.gov](mailto:shaili.jain@va.gov) or
- Steven Lindley, MD, PhD, at [steven.lindley@va.gov](mailto:steven.lindley@va.gov)

*Funding for The Peer Support Program has been made possible by a donation from Arlene G. Rosen and the Michael Alan Rosen Foundation*

